Princeton Theol. Seminary June 4th 1823

Dear Brethren

We are happy to have it once more in our power to reply to another communication from your hands, and reciprocate the Christian sentiments which your favour of the 22 March contains. To have replied sooner to your letter was not in our power in consequence of our arrangement in respect to the time of the Society's meeting, and the rules to be observed in conducting its correspondence. But though late, we hope your Kindness will induce you to give us a cordial reception. It is always pleasant for those connected by the ties of natural relationship, when absent from each other to hold converse through any available medium; how much more to be brethren united by a holier, and more enduring bond, engaged in the same pursuits, and binding their attention to a subject so important as that to which you and we have dedicated ourselves. A work which forbids us to consider ourselves our own - in which we can fix our eyes upon no spot and call it our field, upon no country and call it our own, upon no nation and call them our Kindred; but which points us to the world as our field and country, and to the whole human race as our Kindred.

On a view of the moral darkness and ignorance which prevail in the world, and cast their thick veil over the minds and hearts of men do we not find ample cause for the exercise of the most generous benevolence? and he who with this fact before his mind, could sit calmly down and mark out for himself a field of action where he should determine, in opposition to all providential leadings, to spend his days, would sadly

depart from that command of our blessed Master, which constituting the whole world with all its families the objects of our mission- for certainly every Minister of the gospel is a missionary, he is sent by his redeemer to bear the glad tidings of Salvation to a dying world. All are "embassadors for Christ" and bear their credentials from the Court of Heaven- to the dominion of whose King all the nations of the earth must be reduced or feel forever the trials of his wrath. Dear Brethren, if it is our privilege to preach this glorious gospel, we shall be embassadors from the same Court- and for the good & advancement of the same Mighty Kingdom- that Kingdom which the holy Daniel in prophetic vision saw- which "the God of Heaven shall set up," whose dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His Kingdom that which shall not be destroyed". "There is, therefore, a common bond of union between us, a bond arising from identity of pursuits, objects, aims, motives, hopes and fears, and a bond which makes us brethren, and constitutes us heirs of the same "heavenly inheritance". Let a desire, then, to enrich others, and increase the number of heirs to this inheritance, animate us to constant and unceasing labours for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom- for this inheritance, unlike earthly possessions- is of such a nature that its value is increased by increase in the number of the participants. In our father's house are many mansions, mansions for all who will accept of free Salvation. The harvest field is plenteous but the labourers, as ever few. Souls are perishing in every land for lack of knowledge, or want of some one to "speak to them the word of life". The work to which we have devoted ourselves is truly great, and in view of its greatness we may well exclaim "Who is sufficient for these things"? But He in whose name we go out bears an almighty arm, and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. He alone who could create a world, governs, and upholds its millions, in existence

can accomplish the work, which His immutable word and promise are pledged shall be produced. But as He works by means, and men are to be the instruments, let us in His name, and looking to Him for instruction labour as the Lord gives ability.

In regards to the state of religion in our Institution and in this city, we bless God, that we have the privilege of stating, that the Lord is here in his convicting and converting power, and that the anxious inquiry "for the way" is literally going from house to house, and from heart to heart. In the literary department of our Institution one third of the students have been brought from nature's darkness into God's marvellous light, which together with the number previously professing faith in Christ, leaves but eight or ten estranged from God. and some of these are beginning to think seriously of their souls. Young men that a short time ago were wont to blaspheme the name of the Most High, have been inclined to bring his precepts and hearts that beat high with ambitions, and kindly & chosen & pleasures have lifted up their gates to let the King of glory in. Many of these young men are now taking into consideration the gospel ministry, and some even that of missions; so that from this ingathering we hope an influence will proceed which shall be felt for good to the church of God both far and near.

This gracious work has now been in progress for three or four weeks, and instead of abating in interest seems rather to increase, and has now extended itself generally throughout the city.

On the subject of missions we have nothing to communicate which has not been laid before the public through the papers. We have however very late intelligence from our Brethren in Java. The Missionary brethren Thompson & Abeel are now with us the former of whom is expected to sail for Java (or Batavia) in the full. Two from our number have determined to go to the heathen, one of whom will close his Theological studies in a few weeks. In the literary department six have devoted themselves to the cause of missions. But the views with which we all enter the sacred ministry are such as lead us to consider the world as our field, holding ourselves in readiness to follow the leadings of God's providence, wishing and willing, we hope, to do His will wherever He shall please us. And now Brethren we conclude requesting your prayers for the continued outpouring of God's Spirit upon our College and city, at the same time praying that you may be sharers in this rich blessing, and desiring a continuation of this correspondence.

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry of Rutgers Theol. Sem.

Yours in Christian bonds

John Johnston Cor. Sec.

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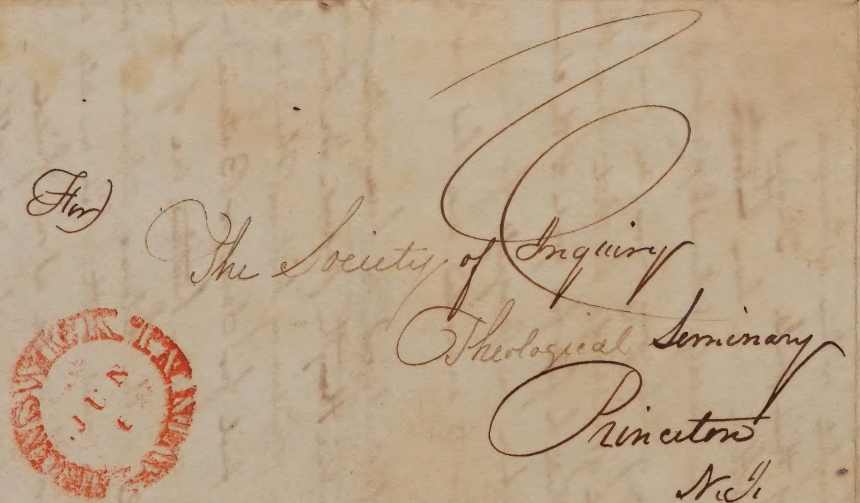
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